

BOOK BRIEFS

College Talks, by Howard F. Lowry (Edited by James R. Blackwood). New York: Oxford University Press, 1969. 177 pages. \$5.00

The *College Talks*, by the president of the College of Wooster, one of America's distinguished educators, offer a lively, well-informed critique of our turbulent times. Choosing universal themes (e.g., "Values and Sanctions," "The *Not* So Lonely Crowd," "The Primary Sources," "The Big World," "The Touch of Greatness"), Dr. Lowry shows us how to capture the attention of young and old alike. His appreciation of the student mind, his understanding of the contemporary predicament, and his remarkable fusion of thought and style make the reading of these messages a memorable experience. If all college chapel messages were of the caliber of these, student chapel attendance would be no problem.

The Preaching Event, by W. L. Malcomson. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1968. 144 pages. \$3.95.

The basic point of view presupposed throughout this book is that preaching is an "event," a communication event. The idea suggests, "Better come to church Sunday morning; something is going to happen." The premise is well taken, for it is essentially true to the spirit of New Testament preaching. The author's emphasis is on preaching to human needs, and much that he says the reader will find both intriguing and disturbing. The stress throughout is on communication rather than proclamation.

The Zondervan Expanded Concordance. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1968. 1848 pages. \$14.95

This expanded concordance includes key words from six modern Bible Translations and the King James Version, presented in a convenient new format. Advantages include: key word heading in boldface type, use

of italics to indicate only the key word, and generous spacing between entries to eliminate confusion. Many words accompanied by modifiers are separated according to alphabetizing of the modifiers: e.g., *All*, According to *all*, After *all*, Before *all*, etc. The translations include *The Amplified Bible*, *the Berkeley Version of the Bible*, *Phillips The New Testament in Modern English*, *The R. S. V.*, *The The English Bible*, and *The New Scofield Bible*. This type of multiplied-version reference, long overdue, will render a real service to pastors, teachers, and all students of the Bible.

Profession: Minister, by James D. Glasse. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. 174 pages. \$3.75.

If feelings of inferiority plague the parish pastor, this frank discussion should bolster his self-image.

Who is he? Prophet-preacher on demand, a priest in danger of losing his piety, a pastor who apparently cannot help people, a teacher whose students may know more than he does, or a harried organizer-administrator who feels overworked and underpaid—these are his roles today. Glasse measures the ministry as profession: body of knowledge, cluster of skills, standard of ethics, institution in society, and value or purpose. The prestige of the minister is surprisingly high in public esteem—on the same level as the mayor of a large city—according to one recent survey.

Specialization in the ministry and continuing education in an academy for parish clergy are recommended to help ministers establish their identity as professionals. The book should reassure ministers and enable them to see some possible solutions for their persistent problems of personal identity.

The Renewal of Preaching, by David J. Randolph. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969. 137 pages. \$3.95.

This is another book emphasizing preaching as an "event." "Preaching is the event in which the biblical text is interpreted in order that its meaning will come to expression in the concrete situations of the hearers" (p. 1). This is reputedly the first homiletical text to be published in America which brings the preacher into direct touch with much of the fruits of the current theological revolution. The mark of real preaching is to be identified with what a sermon *does* rather than with what it *is*. In this text the author succeeds in bringing the pulpit into vigorous contact with the twentieth century.